

# TOWN MEETING.

WILMINGTON, N. C. 22nd August, 1835.

PURSUANT to public notice, a very large assemblage of Citizens of the Town and surrounding country, met in the Court House, at 11 o'clock this day.

Dr. THOMAS H. WRIGHT, as Magistrate of Police, was called to the Chair, and JAMES OWEN Esq. appointed Secretary.

As we have obtained, substantially, the remarks of the Chairman in explaining the object of the meeting, we publish them herewith:—

THE Commissioners, Gentlemen, have deemed it their duty to call you together, in order to lay before you a communication received from the Intendant of the City of Charleston, in relation to the diabolical fanaticism of the North. The Resolutions reported by their committee of 21 cannot fail to meet with your acceptance and hearty concurrence; and it is our duty to convey to them our zealous co-operation, and to our Northern Emancipators our deep abhorrence and thorough reprobation of their cruel, officious and fanatical proceedings. In this cause, Gentlemen, the South and West, the entire slave-holding country, should rise as one man, and speak a language that the confederacy may not misunderstand. We love the Union—have been accustomed to look to it as the sole bond of our political existence; but if its conditions are to be evaded and abused; if it does not bring to us the security, either of life or property; but subjects us to the intermeddling of fanatical self-organized associations, in our dearest rights, it is valueless. It does not vary the aspect of the question, to say, that these Emancipators are acting without the authority of law, without the sanction of the States in which they exist; nor even that they form a small minority in these States. To us, the effect is the same. They are sufficiently numerous to deluge us with their poison; and if not arrested, finally to uproot the foundations of our society. If the several States do not, by the force of opinion, or by the enactment of law, prevent their citizens from spreading treason and anarchy into the borders of their confederates, they are giving it their sanction; and the aggrieved State must look to its own protection and safety. How we are to look in this emergency, is the question, which we have assembled to decide. We do not know that these incendiaries have been enabled to spread their torches amongst us; (though the public mail has been freighted for us,) nor have we any reason to believe that our community has felt the influence of their evil spirit; but it is our duty to be upon our guard; to be, at least, as vigilant, as zealous, and as active for our defence, as they are for our ruin.

But, Gentlemen, whilst, we are active for our security, and adopting necessary precautions against external interference, let us always be watchful over our own feelings and actions; let us constantly bear in mind, that this subject is one of the most delicate and exciting character, and that if we once yield to *unmanly* apprehension, or permit Passion to take the seat of Reason, we can prescribe no bounds to our excesses; may do incalculable injury to ourselves and our cause, and lay up for our after lives abundant matter for compunction and regret.

Let us then calmly and dispassionately, pursue our course; and remember that the helpless Beings, whose destinies are in our hands, look to us alone for justice and protection; and that they are as much entitled to defence in their innocence, as they are to punishment in their crimes—at any rate let not our fears and follies drive them upon their destruction.

The Chairman then read to the meeting a communication from the Intendant of the City of Charleston; when on motion of THOMAS LORING, Esq. it was *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to prepare resolutions to be submitted to this meeting; whereupon Dr. JOHN HILL, THOMAS LORING & ROBERT H. COWAN, Esqs., Dr. WM. J. HARRISS, & G. R. FRENCH, Esq., were appointed.

The Committee having retired for a short time, offered for the consideration of the meeting the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this meeting fully participates in the indignation and abhorrence which pervades the southern country, against the reckless fanatics, enrolled as "*Anti-Slavery Societies*."

*Resolved*, That as anarchy and extermination are the only results which reason and reflection can anticipate from their labors, their motives, like their acts, merit the reprobation of the wise and good.

*Resolved*, That the conduct of our social relations and the uninterrupted continuance of our domestic policy are sacred, inviolable and CHARTERED RIGHTS, with which we will permit no interference, but maintain them as paramount obligations, against all aggression.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the country are due to the patriotic citizens of Charleston, for their prompt, manly and spirited resistance, to this unauthorized, daring and intrusive meddling with our peculiar Institutions. That we fully concur with them in the Resolutions they have forwarded us; and will zealously co-operate in the defence of our Rights, and the preservation of the public peace and order.

*Resolved*, That our Fellow citizens of the Town and Country, be recommended to guard with vigilance all the channels of communication with the non-slaveholding States, and to examine with rigor all suspicious persons and papers.

*Resolved*, That the following Gentlemen be appointed a Committee of Vigilance; whose duty it shall be to attend to the execution of the last resolution, and that the commissioners have power to fill all vacancies:—

JAMES OWEN,  
JAS. T. MILLER,  
H. A. LONDON,  
T. W. BROWN,  
L. J. POISSON,  
W. B. MEARES,

A. McRAE,  
A. LAZARUS,  
C. B. MORRIS,  
A. ANDERSON,  
A. J. DeROSSET, Jr.  
JAS. S. GREEN,

P. W. FANNING,  
JOS. A. HILL,  
G. HOLMES,  
J. A. LILLINGTON,  
THOS. J. ARMSTRONG,  
P. K. DICKINSON,

J. A. TAYLOR,  
W. C. LORD,  
THOS. COWAN,  
JNO. S. JAMES,  
E. P. HALL,  
EDWARD B. DUDLEY.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the foregoing proceedings be published in the People's Press, with a request that all the Journals of the State give them an insertion, and also that all Newspapers in the Union, friendly to our cause, be requested to do the same.

On motion of JEREMIAH LIPPITT, Esq., *Resolved*, That a copy of our proceedings be forwarded to the Intendant of the City of Charleston.

On motion of Captain P. W. FANNING, *Resolved*, That one thousand copies of the proceedings of this meeting be printed for distribution by the Magistrate of Police.

*Signed*

TH. H. WRIGHT, *Chairman*.

JAS. OWEN, *Secretary*.



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Proceedings of a meeting in  
North Carolina respecting  
the Abolition of Slavery

Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1835

Harrisburg Penn.

The Governor of Pennsylvania

His Excellency

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